PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area
Draft Management Plan Recommendations

MAY 2006

PREPARED BY THE DDHAW GHRO HPA STEERING COMMITTEE

106-07234/

Review and Approval Processes

Throughout May, June and July, 2006, the Ddhaw Ghro Draft Management Plan will be undergoing a public review process. During this time, community meetings will be held in order to provide information regarding the Ddhaw Ghro Management Plan and collect input on the plan.

Once public consultation is completed, the Ddhaw Ghro Steering Committee will review the comments from the public, stakeholders, First Nations and Yukon government, and may choose to make amendments to the draft plan. The plan will then be submitted to the Parties to initiate their formal review and approval processes.

Feedback?

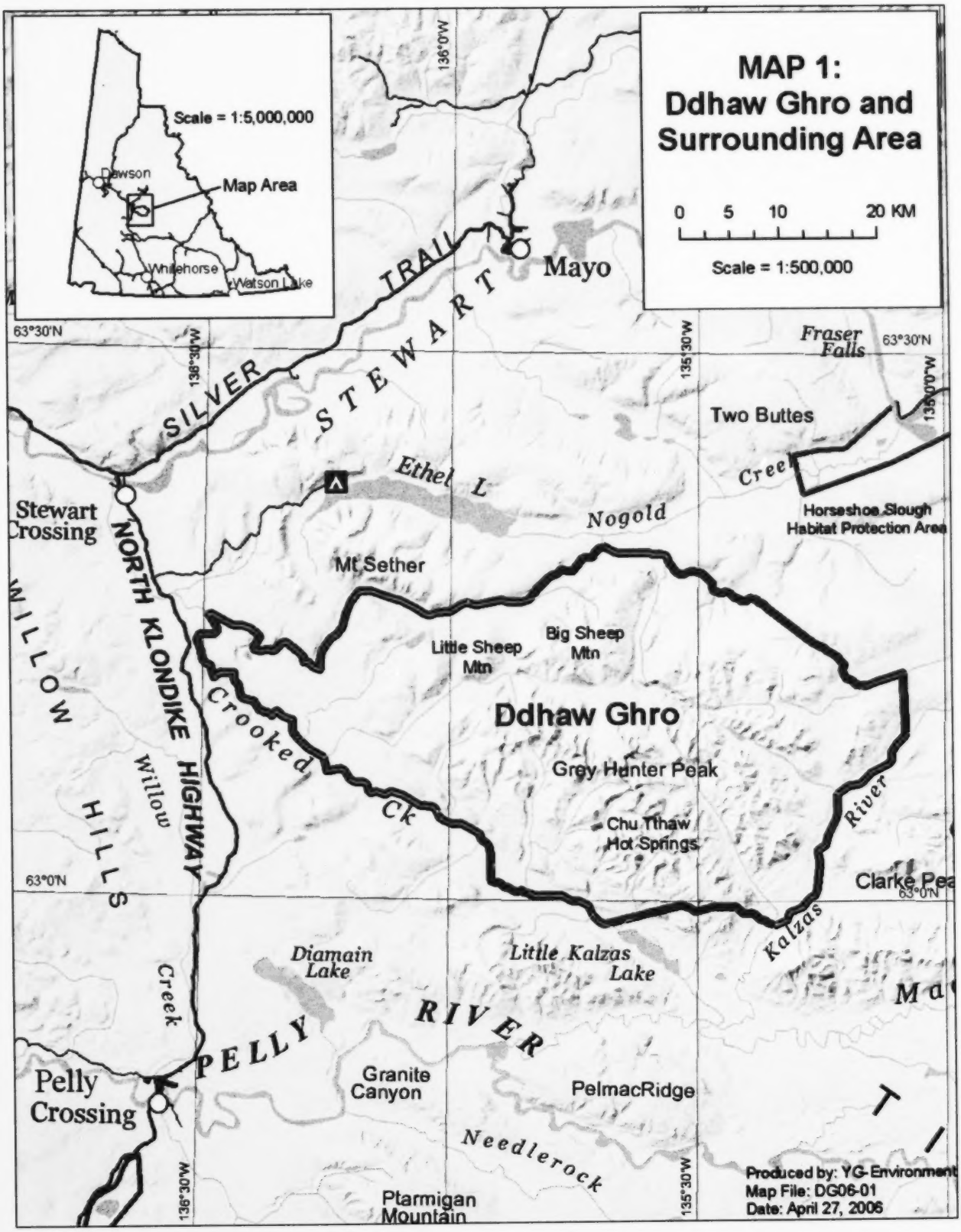
If you have any comments regarding the Ddhaw Ghro Draft Management Plan, or suggestions regarding the content, please contact Bob Hayes, Chair of the Ddhaw Ghro Steering Committee at (867) 634-2765.

Written submissions may be submitted to:

Bob Hayes, Chair, Ddhaw Ghro Steering Committee
Box 5499, Haines Junction, YT Y0B 1L0

Deadline for comment is ~~July 24~~ September 11, 2006.

A full version of the Ddhaw Ghro Draft Management Plan can be viewed on-line at:
http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/pubs.html


MAP 1:
Ddhaw Ghro and
Surrounding Area
0 5 10 20 KM
Scale = 1:500,000
Scale = 1:5,000,000
Dawson
Map Area
Whitehorse
Watson Lake
136°0'W
63°30'N
138°30'W
135°30'W
135°0'W
SILVER TRAIL
STEWART
Mayo
Fraser Falls
Two Buttes
Creek
Horseshoe Slough
Habitat Protection Area
Ethel L
Nogold
Stewart Crossing
NORTH KLONDIKE HIGHWAY
Mt Sether
Little Sheep Mtn
Big Sheep Mtn
Ddhaw Ghro
Grey Hunter Peak
Chu Tthaw Hot Springs
Crooked Ck
WILLOW HILLS
Willow Creek
River
Clarke Pea
63°0'N
Kalzas
Diamain Lake
Little Kalzas Lake
PELLY RIVER
Pelly Crossing
Granite Canyon
PelmacRidge
Needlerock
Ptarmigan Mountain
Produced by: YG-Environment
Map File: DG06-01
Date: April 27, 2006

Introduction

The Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area (Ddhaw Ghro) was identified for establishment as a Habitat Protection Area in 1997, as part of the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*. The area is noted for several features which make it of regional significance, including the historically unglaciated features, the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs, the Fannin Sheep population, the cultural history and intact ecosystem.

The area is about 1,600 km^2 and lies in central Yukon Territory, within the Yukon Plateau North ecoregion. It is near the communities of Stewart Crossing, Pelly Crossing and Mayo, and is situated to the east of the North Klondike Highway. Access to most of the Ddhaw Ghro region is limited, with no trails or roads accessible by motorized vehicles.

Management of the various aspects relating to land and resources within Ddhaw Ghro are under the purview of the Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. The Selkirk and Mayo District Renewable Resources Councils also play a role in making recommendations relating to management of the area.

In 2000, the Ddhaw Ghro Steering Committee was established to initiate management planning for the area. The steering committee included representation from the Parties (Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun), as well as the participation of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

The vision, objectives and recommendations of the management plan are consistent, envisioning Ddhaw Ghro as an area that is to be left in its natural state. The vision states that the area is to be left as it is. This is consistent with the objectives of conserving and protecting the plant and animal species, as identified in the land claims document. Some of the recommendations which reflect the vision and objectives include the withdrawal from mineral disposition and exclusion from trapping.

Human activity within the area has been limited, which is part of the attraction of the area. There is evidence of historic hunting and gathering, as well as knowledge of traditional hunting and fishing throughout Ddhaw Ghro. The area was at one time subject to some mineral interests, but there no significant evidence of exploration. Today, the only evidence of human activity are some abandoned and decaying cabins, old snares and caches and intermittent foot trails.

Most of the recommendations within this plan will involve little incremental expense or resources on behalf of the management bodies. Instead, many of the recommendations focus on an integrated resource management approach that takes advantage of existing opportunities. The key to successful implementation of this plan will be ensuring awareness of land and resource users and managers with respect to the vision and objectives of this plan.

One of the tools identified within this plan for effective management of the area is the May Gathering. The May Gathering is a First Nation traditional practice, whereby people come together every spring to inform each other of observations, and plan for the coming year. This plan recognizes the value of the May Gathering, and the unique opportunity it represents for integrated and inclusive management of the area.

This plan will only come into force once approval from Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has been attained.

The Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Management Plan is to provide recommendations to Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and other authorities for the long-term management of fish and wildlife, and their habitats, while allowing for traditional uses of Ddhaw Ghro by Northern Tutchone People.

In addition to influencing land managers, the decisions of land and resource users in and around the Ddhaw Ghro area should be guided by through the vision, objectives and values defined in the plan.

Vision

Leave Ddhaw Ghro as it is.

Plan Objectives

Five objectives were established for Ddhaw Ghro in Schedule "A" of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement:

1. to conserve and protect important fish and wildlife, and fish and wildlife habitat in the Area for the benefit of all Yukon people:
2. to recognize and protect the use of the Area by the Selkirk People and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and to facilitate their interest in sharing the Area with Little Salmon/Carmacks People and other Yukon Indian People;
3. to provide for the management and protection of the Area;
4. to protect the full diversity of wildlife populations and their habitats in the Area from activities which could reduce the Area's capability to support wildlife; and
5. to encourage public awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural resources of the Area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are draft recommendations that the Ddhaw Ghro Steering Committee has developed, for implementation by the Parties. Several of these recommendations relate to the 'May Gathering', a traditional gathering of people from the region each spring, which provides an excellent opportunity to discuss issues and opportunities and influence decision making for the region.

Sheep Management Concern 1:

This is a small and isolated population of dark-colored sheep. This herd is sensitive to the effects of climate change on habitat, and to development activities outside of Ddhaw Ghro. These sheep need to be monitored closely to determine if numbers are declining, stable, or increasing.

RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct annual surveys of the sheep in Ddhaw Ghro. Monitor the age and sex composition of the sheep population as an indication of its condition, and investigate causes if problems are found. If a problem is found, the Parties and RRCs will be responsible for determining/identifying a course of action to address that problem.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Aerial sheep counts at the same time as annual Ethel Lake caribou rut counts	Yukon government	Every September/October
Monitor and report sheep information and make management recommendations	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

Sheep Management Concern 2:

Sheep may benefit from controlled burning of their range, but more research is needed to understand traditional fire management and the possible benefits and impacts relating to the natural environment and the Ddhaw Ghro sheep.

RECOMMENDATION:

Research the use of controlled burns to enhance sheep range in Ddhaw Ghro.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Fire use research	Yukon government	Early in the plan
Traditional fire management research	Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Renewable Resources Councils	Early in the plan

Sheep Management Concern 3:

Ddhaw Ghro sheep move to Mount Sether in summer, which is outside the Habitat Protection Area. People sometimes hunt these sheep and even a small harvest could cause numbers to decline in Ddhaw Ghro.

RECOMMENDATION:

Monitor and report harvest of sheep in and around Ddhaw Ghro to ensure the harvest is sustainable. If a problem is found, the Parties should consult with Renewable Resources Councils to determine actions to address any harvest problems.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Monitor harvest of sheep by all hunters	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

Caribou Management Concern 1:

The Ethel Lake herd has had poor calf survival in recent years. Large wildfires in 2004 have destroyed important winter range in and around Ddhaw Ghro. By doing annual herd counts biologists monitor calf production and determine if the herd is increasing, decreasing, or is stable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Monitor the Ethel Lake caribou herd annually to determine the health of the population by counting the number of cows, bulls and calves.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Caribou population counts	Yukon government	Annually
Report caribou information	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

Caribou Management Concern 2:

All people are being asked to voluntarily stop hunting Ethel Lake caribou as long as calf survival remains low.

RECOMMENDATION:

Continue with voluntary no-hunting as long as recruitment stays low. Wait until recruitment is above 20 calves for every 100 cows for at least two years before lifting the no-hunting request.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Promote continued voluntary hunting closure	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Ongoing
Report caribou information	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

Moose Management Concern 1:

There is currently no harvest of moose in Ddhaw Ghro, but moose move in and out of the Habitat Protection Area. Moose numbers need to be monitored in the region because they are the main subsistence food for local residents.

RECOMMENDATION:

Continue to monitor moose populations in and near Ddhaw Ghro.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Aerial and ground-based moose monitoring	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	Dependent upon issues and changing conditions.
Report moose population information	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

Moose Management Concern 2:

Although there is no moose harvest in Ddhaw Ghro, over harvest in nearby areas could affect moose that use Ddhaw Ghro.

RECOMMENDATION:

Continue to monitor harvest of moose in and around Ddhaw Ghro.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Public moose harvest information collection	Yukon government	Annually
First Nation hunter interviews	Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	Annually
Report moose harvest information	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties and Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

Bear Management Concern:

Bears in Ddhaw Ghro appear to be healthy. Grizzly bears are classified as a Species at Risk under federal legislation. Grizzly bears are also a main predator of big game, especially on calves. Grizzly and black bears have the potential to impact sheep, moose and caribou in Ddhaw Ghro.

RECOMMENDATION:

There are no immediate management concerns or recommendations about bears in this plan. Local information will continue to be gathered, and recommendations will be considered, should a change in bear numbers be seen.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Consideration of management measures for bear, as issues arise, based on occasional research and monitoring	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	May Gathering

Waterfowl Management Concern:

Much of the forest cover surrounding the wetlands in Ddhaw Ghro was burned by wild-fires in 2004. Continuing research on waterbird use of these wetlands before and after the fires is a good opportunity to study how wetlands and waterbirds respond to fire.

RECOMMENDATION:

Continue regular monitoring of waterfowl use along the Little Kalzas River, Woodburn Creek, and Crooked Creek.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Waterfowl study — effects of wildfires on waterfowl, and use of Ddhaw Ghro lakes	Ducks Unlimited Canada and Yukon government	Annually
Waterfowl monitoring support	Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation	Annually
Report to May Gathering	Yukon government and Ducks Unlimited	Annually

Fish Management Concern 1:

Nogold Creek and Grey Hunter Creek are important watersheds with headwaters in the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. These creeks likely provide spawning and rearing habitat for salmon but they have not been studied.

RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct a study of salmon use of Nogold and Grey Hunter Creeks.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Research proposal submission to Yukon River Panel, Restoration and Enhancement Fund	First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun	Early in the plan
Salmon counts on Grey Hunter and Nogold Creeks	First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and a contractor	Early in the plan

Fish Management Concern 2:

There is a lack of information about freshwater fish, including trout and whitefish. Critical areas have not been documented for these species.

RECOMMENDATION:

Evaluate whether research should be done for various fish species in other rivers and creeks of Ddhaw Ghro.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Evaluation of whether research is needed	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans	May Gathering

Trapping Management Concern:

Northern Tutchone elders say they do not want trapping re-opened, even though they were forced out of the area in 1948. They believe the Area should be not be trapped in order to restrict access in the Habitat Protection Area.

Special trapping could be required to address future conservation problems in and around Ddhaw Ghro. Wolves are significant predators of moose, caribou and sheep, and their numbers could be reduced if there was a conservation problem with big game. Also, beavers are important because they dam creeks and could limit the movement of fish, including spawning salmon.

RECOMMENDATION:

There should be no commercial trapping or development of trails in Ddhaw Ghro. Government and First Nations should not establish commercial trapping concessions within Ddhaw Ghro.

Special trapping could be allowed in Ddhaw Ghro in the future to address wildlife conservation problems identified by the Parties. Any such trapping, and associated access should be carried out under the direction of the three Parties.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
No commercial concessions to be issued in Ddhaw Ghro	Yukon government	Ongoing
Identify conservation problems, if any, for which trapping would be appropriate	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	May Gathering
Establish rules for how, where and when, trapping activities for conservation purposes are appropriate	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Before trapping for conservation proceeds
Make recommendations regarding need for trapping	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	May Gathering

Fire Management Concern 1:

There is no fire management plan for Ddhaw Ghro. Large areas in and around Ddhaw Ghro burned, in 2004, resulting in an increased habitat value of the remaining forests. Also, Chu Tthaw Hot Springs, existing heritage sites and any new structures that are recommended in this plan need fire protection.

RECOMMENDATION:

Develop a fire management plan for all of Ddhaw Ghro, based on traditional and contemporary fire management principles.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Write a document about traditional fire management practices	Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan
Develop and implement a fire management plan	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan
Review the fire management plan	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	As required

Fire Management Concern 2:

In 2004, the communities of Mayo and Pelly Crossing were frustrated that local First Nation crews were not trained to suppress fires in the Ddhaw Ghro area.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Parties should develop effective protocols and action plans to ensure local fire crews can respond from Pelly Crossing and Mayo in managing wildfires in Ddhaw Ghro.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Training of local fire crews	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan
Develop an effective local fire response (protocols and action plans)	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan

Fire Management Concern 3:

The Chu Tthaw Hot Springs is a very important cultural area and needs fire protection. There needs to be effective coordination of fire management methods between S-116 and a surrounding buffer area in Ddhaw Ghro.

RECOMMENDATION:

Change the designation of the area surrounding the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs from Wilderness Zone to a Strategic Fire Management Zone. Develop a plan to manage wildfires in the buffer zone which is coordinated with a Selkirk First Nation fire management plan for S-116.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Delineate an adequate buffer area around S-116	The three Parties	Early in the plan
Designate Chu Tthaw buffer area as Strategic Fire Management Zone	Yukon government	Early in the plan
Use aggressive initial attack by aerial crews to supress fires in the areas surrounding S-116	Yukon government	Ongoing
Develop and implement a fire management action plan for the buffer area	The three Parties	Early in the plan

Hot Springs Fire Management Concerns:

During Ddhaw Ghro public consultations, many ideas about ways to protect the Hot Springs from wildfire were proposed. As Selkirk First Nation is the land owner at the Hot Springs (S-116), these ideas are being provided for their consideration.

There are concerns about using chemical fire retardants and large equipment in the Hot Springs area. The community prefers to see low impact aerial and ground methods used.

The Hot Springs is a sensitive place. A landing area needs to be developed away from the current landing area, which is near the pools.

Forests at the Hot Springs have not burned in recent times, therefore, the fuel load presents a significant hazard.

There could be better success of fighting a fire at the Hot Springs (S-116) if tools were stored in the vicinity for prompt response to wildfires.

Fire training in the use of traditional, light-ground methods is needed in the Hot Springs area to increase the knowledge of the area by fire crews and develop appropriate fire fighting strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SELKIRK FIRST NATION TO CONSIDER REGARDING FIRE MANAGEMENT WITHIN S-116 (CHU TTHAW HOT SPRINGS):

- **Develop a fire management plan for the Selkirk First Nation S-116 Hot Springs parcel. The management plan should include the following:**
  - Use low impact ground and aerial fire suppression for fires in the Hot Springs (S-116) parcel, unless agreed to by Selkirk First Nation.
  - Identify and develop a landing site to get fire crews safely in and out of the Hot Springs site.
  - Consider ways to reduce fire hazards in the Hot Springs parcel. Involve elders in any fire protection program to ensure important hot springs features and medicinal plants are protected.
  - Build a structure to house fire pumps, hoses and other hand equipment for fire fighting and hoses at Hot Springs.
  - Use the Hot Springs area for training in traditional fire suppression methods.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Develop a fire management plan for the S-116 parcel, coordinated with the buffer area fire management plan	Selkirk First Nation	Early in the plan

Cultural Resources Management Concern 1:

Work on the cultural resources in Ddhaw Ghro began in 2000 and information is incomplete. To fully document sites additional work is required.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Parties should work to document, do field studies and map cultural sites and trails that have been identified by elders.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Document, do field studies and map cultural sites and trails	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	As resources are available
Ensure protection of heritage/ historic sites under *Historic Resources Act*	Yukon government Tourism and Culture Department	In conjunction with other projects in Ddhaw Ghro

Cultural Resources Management Concern 2:

Northern Tutchone place names are not shown on maps.

RECOMMENDATION:

Northern Tutchone and local place names of creeks and mountains should be included in all Ddhaw Ghro documents, maps and awareness and appreciation products.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Submission of names to Geographical Names Program, Yukon government Tourism and Culture	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation), Geographical Place Names Board	2008
Use of officially approved English and Tutchone (Selkirk dialect) names in documents and maps	The three Parties and Government of Canada	Ongoing

Forest Management Concern 1:

Boreal forests provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Much of the mature forest around Ddhaw Ghro burned in 2004. The remaining forests are important winter range for the Ethel Lake herd. Any commercial harvest of wood in Ddhaw Ghro would require access roads, which would be a major concern.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Harvest of remaining mature forests in Ddhaw Ghro should be avoided to protect important habitats. There should be no commercial harvest of timber in Ddhaw Ghro.

Harvesting could be acceptable to protect the forest from insect infestation, disease or forest fire mitigation, in keeping with the management objectives of this plan.

Wood cutting should be allowed for personal use only when in Ddhaw Ghro. Logs may be harvested to provide timber for construction of educational or cultural structures as discussed in other sections of this plan.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
No issuance of commercial timber or fuelwood cutting permits	Yukon government	Effective immediately
Collect information about forest infestation and disease	Yukon government	Ongoing
Inform visitors of plan recommendations regarding forest harvesting	The three parties	As soon as practicable

Mineral Resources Concern:

Almost all of Ddhaw Ghro ranks as a key wildlife area or is an area of high habitat suitability for important wildlife. These habitats are considered to be critical to the health and survival of Ddhaw Ghro wildlife. Mineral development and associated access has the potential to reduce the capability of the area to support the current wildlife diversity and habitats.

RECOMMENDATION:

Withdraw the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area from mineral exploration and development under the Yukon *Quartz Mining Act* and the Yukon *Placer Mining Act*; and from oil and gas exploration and development under the *Yukon Oil and Gas Act*.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Withdraw the area from mineral and oil and gas exploration and disposition	Yukon government	As soon as practicable

Tourism Concern:

Unmanaged tourism could affect wildlife behaviour and habitats, environmental values and traditional uses. It is important that ways to effectively manage and control visitor use be in place before increasing tourism opportunities. Although existing laws cannot prevent visitors from going to Ddhaw Ghro, public awareness of the area and cooperation from tourism operators can help minimize recreation and tourism effects at this time.

There is a strong community concern that access to Chu Tthaw Hot Springs through Ddhaw Ghro could degrade this sensitive area. The uncontrolled development of the Nash Creek Hot Springs north of Mayo was often referred in community meetings as an example of how a culturally important hot springs can be degraded by mismanagement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

There should be no land tenure granted for the purpose of tourism within Ddhaw Ghro.

There should not be active promotion of Ddhaw Ghro as a tourism destination at this time. The Yukon government and First Nations should not advocate recreation and tourism activities in Ddhaw Ghro in brochures and other materials. This recommendation can be revisited in future plan reviews, with respect to limited wilderness guiding and First Nation economic development.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
No disposition of lands for commercial tourism purposes	Yukon government	Ongoing
No active promotion of Ddhaw Ghro in tourism publications	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Ongoing

Research and Monitoring Concern:

One concern is that researchers rarely provide information about their study results to local communities in a format that is useful to them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Research projects in Ddhaw Ghro should be reviewed and approved by the Parties. Due to the sensitivity of Ddhaw Ghro, the Parties should develop a collaborative process for reviewing, approving and monitoring all research projects.

Results of all research should be made available to the Parties and communities in an appropriate presentation and in a timely manner.

Any research dealing with traditional knowledge should be performed with respect for First Nation traditional law (i.e. Doòll).

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Develop a collaborative process for reviewing, approving and monitoring research projects	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Later in the plan
Results of Ddhaw Ghro research projects to be made available to the Parties and local communities	Researchers	As results are available
Consult with First Nations regarding traditional law	Researchers	Before any traditional knowledge project proceeds

Awareness and Appreciation Concern 1:

There is concern that too much publicity about Ddhaw Ghro could result in unexpected disturbance, which could diminish or destroy some of the natural values of the area. Methods to increase appreciation need to consider potential disturbance.

Yukoners, and especially youth, need to be educated about the ecological and cultural significance of Ddhaw Ghro.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Parties should work towards creating greater public awareness of the Ddhaw Ghro region, in a way that does not promote increased travel to the area.

To encourage respect for Ddhaw Ghro, the Parties should make information available. This information could include:

- Brochure and/or video to promote awareness of history, wildlife and sensitivity of the area
- Information in community and First Nation newsletters
- Highway pullout with interpretive signs stating:
  - General description of the natural features and values
  - Previously known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary
  - Status as a Habitat Protection Area under the Selkirk Final Agreement
  - History of people who used the area
  - Northern Tutchone history
  - Restrictions that apply

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Develop a communications strategy	The three Parties	Early in the plan
Produce a brochure	The three Parties	Later in the plan
Produce a video	The three Parties	Later in the plan
Provide information in community and First Nation newsletters	Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Pelly Crossing, Village of Mayo	Ongoing
Develop and establsh a highway pullout and signage	The three Parties	Later in the plan

Awareness and Appreciation Concern 2:

Through education, people may appreciate and respect the land and wildlife, as well as have an understanding of the cultural and historic significance of the area. Respect for the area will benefit Ddhaw Ghro. Elders strongly believe Ddhaw Ghro should be used to educate younger generations about nature, cultural/traditional values and the environment to revitalize the traditional way of life. Traditional principles and practices need to be included in any education occurring in Ddhaw Ghro.

RECOMMENDATION:

Use Ddhaw Ghro as a 'classroom' to teach about Northern Tutchone culture, traditions, and customary practices; and history, wildlife, ecosystems, tourism, climate change, geology and conservation.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Develop lesson plans and resources, including opportunities for Elders to talk about the Area	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan
Ddhaw Ghro field trips	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	As required
Regularly educate people	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Ongoing

Land Use and Tenure:

RECOMMENDATION:

There should be no land tenure granted in Ddhaw Ghro for the following activities: gravel extraction, agriculture, grazing leases, rural or recreation residences, or for any commercial activity. Exceptions may be made or grandfathered family cabin sites and educational facilities agreed to by the Parties.

Land use permits not be issued, except to meet the requirements of the management plan.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
No issuance of land tenure in Ddhaw Ghro	Yukon government	Immediately
No issuance of land permits in Ddhaw Ghro	Yukon government	Immediately

Access:

The main concern is that improved access routes will encourage increased visitation by people, which will result in negative environmental impacts to Ddhaw Ghro. Off-road vehicle traffic in Ddhaw Ghro could create serious negative impacts through destruction of vegetation, disturbance of the soil, creation of ruts that are susceptible to erosion and increased noise and human activity that will impact wildlife.

Another concern is that there is currently no mechanism under the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* to restrict a person from traveling in the Habitat Protection Area by motorized vehicle.

Some parties may wish to develop an access right-of-way through Ddhaw Ghro to travel to lands elsewhere. Because Ddhaw Ghro is mainly rugged mountains or is surrounded by incised creeks to the north and west, it seems unlikely that access through Ddhaw Ghro is feasible. More suitable routes exist outside the HPA.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

No motorized ground access should be allowed in Ddhaw Ghro.

Existing trails in Ddhaw Ghro should not be developed in a way that could allow motorized traffic.

Any access for emergency purposes should be by air.

Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Inform motorized off-road users to avoid use of this area	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	2006
Develop regulations under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* to prohibit motorized vehicles in the Habitat Protection Area	Yukon government	As soon as practicable

Important Wildlife Habitat in Areas Adjacent to Ddhaw Ghro

Based on extensive study, the steering committee believes there is a strong need for the Parties to consider including a significant 'Additional Area' to meet the conservation objectives of Ddhaw Ghro.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Key habitat areas outside Ddhaw Ghro should be considered by the Parties for inclusion in an "Additional Area" as per section 4.5 of Chapter 10, Schedule A of the Selkirk Final Agreement. These key habitat areas include the Mt. Sether sheep range, the riparian areas on both sides of boundary creeks and Ethel Lake caribou winter range.

If the Parties agree on an "Additional Area", they should consider managing the area using the same principles and recommendations as the Ddhaw Ghro Management Plan.

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Consideration of boundary expansion for inclusion of additional key habitats shown in this plan	The three Parties	As soon as practicable

Plan Implementation

By approving the plan, the Parties commit to a variety of responsibilities, from ongoing research, to specific administrative actions.

In developing recommendations and actions, the steering committee has tried to ensure there is reasonable integration with existing programs and activities of the Parties. The committee recognizes that recommendations need to be consistent, justifiable, of cost-effective.

Through implementation of this plan, it is hoped that Ddhaw Ghro will not only continue to have a healthy ecosystem and strong wildlife populations, but will have a framework for management that enables harmony, clarity and certainty for land users in the Area.

Future community-based fish and wildlife plans in the region should consider the recommendations of this plan.

First Nations and Yukon government must work together to ensure the vision is attained through implementation of the recommendations contained within this plan.

In order to implement the many recommendations, the funding sources and requirements need to be identified by the Parties. Funding for implementation has to come out of base budgets for the Parties, as land claims funding is only available to develop the plans.

RECOMMENDATION:

Parties to work together to develop an implementation resources and action plan, as identified in the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement, Schedule 'A', Section 8.2.

RECOMMENDATION:

An implementation team should be established by the Parties to review progress of the plan recommendations and commitments of this plan proceed. Ddhaw Ghro information should be presented and discussed during the May Gathering as part of the implementation process. The team would consult with elders to receive guidance relating to how actions should be carried out in May Gathering.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that during the next five years, the Parties work together to develop ways to accommodate traditional knowledge and traditional law in the *Wildlife Act* and other legislation and regulations, in Ddhaw Ghro. This could address situations where there is a disparity between traditional law and other legislation.

Yukon
Environment